

1	2	3
December, 89	777.60	11.0
December, 90	838.72	7.9

(d) and (e) From above it is seen that although the deposits in the branches of commercial banks functioning in the Kashmir Valley have not decreased, the rate of growth has declined presumably due to the prevailing law and order situation.

(f) and (g) Though the RBI does not intend to close any of the branches, yet they have authorised their Regional Office in Jammu to decide cases of shifting of bank branches on a temporary basis keeping in view the law and order situation and the prevailing exigencies.

Hotline connections in banks

4217. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to instal hotline connections in the high security risk branches of banks to local police stations; and

(b) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that as per existing instructions, all currency chest branches and high security risk branches of the banks have been advised to have hot-line connections to the nearest local police station. The above instructions are in pursuance of recommendations of the Working Group on Security Arrangements in the banks, which had

recommended for the grant of hot-line connections by Post & Telegraph authority liberally between the police station and bank branches, whenever such requests are received. The commercial banks have identified branches for the above purposes and they are in different stages of implementation of the above recommendations.

Export of food products to Kuwait

4218. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of Indian food products to Kuwait which was temporarily stalled due to the recent Gulf War, has been resumed;

(b) if so, the details of food products being exported at present;

(c) whether the food products are also being exported to other Arabian countries such as Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Food products being exported to Kuwait and other Arab countries such as Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia include fresh/processed fruits and vegetables, pickles, chutneys and papads, meat and poultry products etc.

Fall in Income-tax Returns of large incomes

4219. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of income-tax

returns of income above rupees one lakh filed during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91;

(b) whether there has been steep fall in income tax returns of large incomes over the years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the main reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) The number of income tax returns having income of Rs. 1 lakh and above for the years 1988-89 to 1990-91 are as follows :

(in lakhs)

Year	Returns
1988-89	1.71
1989-90	2.32
1990-91	2.38
	(Provisional)

(b) No, sir.

(c) to (e) In view of (b) above, do not arise.

Strike by Income-tax officials

4220. SHRI CHETAN P. S. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Income Tax strike on arrest of UP official" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated July 9, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the action taken by the Union

Government to provide adequate protection to the Income Tax officials during search operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A case has been registered and is under investigation with the local police.

(c) The Union Government took up the matter with all the State Governments, who have agreed to provide adequate security cover to the Income Tax officials during search operations.

Introduction of Stage Carriage Services in Delhi

4221. SHRI CHETAN P. S. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the proposal to introduce Stage Carriage Services for luxury buses on selected routes in Delhi;

(b) the time by which these services are likely to start;

(c) the reasons for delay in implementation of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Government have recommended to the Delhi Administration to introduce a scheme of special stage carriage permits at a fare structure higher than that of Delhi Transport Corporation, with more comforts, to wean away passengers who presently use personalised vehicles, to public transport.